



9910148-0400

United States Department of State

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Washington, D.C. 20520

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OCT 24 1991

Dear Senator Lieberman:

I am responding to your letter of September 24 to Assistant Secretary Schifter regarding the lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa. As you know, on July 10, President Bush determined that the conditions for termination of sanctions set forth in the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 (CAAA) had been met.

In the CAAA, Congress established five specific conditions for the South African government to meet. The legislation further stated that when those conditions were met, the sanctions in Title III of the Act would terminate. The Department of State conducted a comprehensive review of the status of all prisoners in South Africa before determining that the first condition -- the release of all persons persecuted for their political beliefs or detained unduly without trial -- had been met. The State of Emergency was fully lifted in October 1990. In February 1990, the government unbanned all political parties; since then, South Africans of all races have freely exercised the right to form political parties, express political opinions, and participate in the political process which is focussed on negotiating a new constitution. The Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act were repealed in June. Finally, the government has agreed to enter without conditions into good faith negotiations with representative members of the black majority. The recent signing of the National Peace Accord and the continuing commitment to a multiparty conference on constitutional principles bears this out.

The CAAA did not link removal of sanctions to the extension of the right to vote for all South Africans, which would come with adoption of a new constitution. Rather, the Act was intended to move the South African government toward true negotiations with the black opposition for a non-racial democracy. That aim has been achieved. Sanctions outside of CAAA -- the Gramm Amendment affecting South African access to IMF facilities, the arms embargoes and the prohibition on exports to the police and military -- remain.

The Honorable
Joseph I. Lieberman,
United States Senate.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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The termination of CAAA sanctions against South Africa does not mean an end to United States efforts to uplift the quality of life of the victims of apartheid. As President Bush said on July 10, the issue of creating more jobs for black South Africans is absolutely crucial and the end of sanctions on trade and investment will encourage this process. South Africa faces daunting tasks in redressing the legacies of apartheid in the areas of housing, education and health; it will need a strong and vibrant economy to meet these socio-economic needs. President Bush also announced his intention to double US assistance to black South Africans to \$80 million for fiscal year 1992. The Foreign Assistance Authorization Bill currently under consideration by Congress would direct that the additional \$40 million in assistance address housing, education and health issues.

In March, the South African government abolished laws supporting apartheid in land tenure. It also initiated measures to confirm black ownership of urban housing, to begin transferring some agricultural land to blacks and to include blacks in expanded programs for assisting farmers. Much still remains to be done and the Department of State will monitor closely developments in this area.

We also welcome the signing of the National Peace Accord on September 14 and see it as an important step to ending the violence that has plagued South Africa over the last several months. We urge the leaders of all groups -- including the National Party, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party -- to cooperate closely with each other to make the Accord work and to move quickly to full scale negotiations on a new, non-racial constitution for South Africa.

Sincerely,

Janet G. Mullins
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

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